AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at a lower part at one end thereof and with an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor provided with a plurality of hollow disks ~~as connected to one another~~ in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, provided with a support member at an end of the outlet side thereof, the outer diameter of the support member being smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side.

2. (currently amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor having an outer diameter and provided with a support ~~members at both ends~~ member at one end of the stirring rotor and another support member at the other end thereof, and with a plurality of hollow disks ~~as connected to one another~~ in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the another support member, positioned at a side adjacent ~~of~~ the outlet at the lower part at the other end of the cylindrical vessel, is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and wherein the reactor is provided with scraping vanes on the support member at the one end of the stirring rotor, on the vessel inner end wall-facing side.

3.-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at a lower part at one end thereof and with an outlet at the lower part at the other end

thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor provided with a plurality of hollow disks ~~as connected to one another~~ in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, provided with a support member at an end of the outlet side thereof, the outer diameter of the support member being smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side, and wherein the stirring rotor within the vessel is divided into a plurality of stirring blocks ~~according to~~ having structure based upon the viscosity ~~level~~ of the liquid feed.

7. (currently amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor having an outer diameter and provided with a support ~~members at both ends~~ member at one end of the stirring rotor and another support member at the other end thereof, and with a plurality of hollow disks ~~as connected to one another~~ in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the another support member, positioned at a side adjacent ~~of~~ the outlet at the lower part at the other end of the cylindrical vessel, is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, ~~and~~ wherein the reactor is provided with scraping vanes on the support member at the one end of the stirring rotor, on the vessel inner end wall-facing side, and wherein the stirring rotor within the vessel is divided into a plurality of stirring blocks ~~according to~~ having structure based upon the viscosity ~~level~~ of the liquid feed.